GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2149
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2000
ISI AND TALIBAN HAND IN HIJACKING
SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned `Apharan mein Laden, Taliban va ISI ka hath hone ka andesha` appearing in Dainik Jagran, dated December 26,1999;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether any links have been detected between the hijacking episode of IC-814 on December 24, 1999 and the Osama bin Laden operating from Saudi Arabia;

(d) if so, the details thereof?

(e) the steps being taken on the international forum by the Indian Government against Osama bin Laden; and

(f) the action taken by the Government to curb such activities of Laden?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a)-(b) Government have seen the report appearing in the Dainik Jagran of December 26, 1999.Available evidence with Government points in the direction of Pakistan`s complicity in the hijacking of the Indian Airlines flight IC-814.Government have raised the matter with the Government of Pakistan and have reminded them that as a signatory to several International Conventions against Terrorism, also the Simla Agreement of 1972, and the Lahore Declaration, it has an obligation to take the hijackers into custody and extradite them to India. Government have also raised the matter of Pakistan`s complicity in the hijacking of IC-814 with the international community through the relevant international fora. There is now much greater awareness of Pakistan`s continued sponsorship of cross border terrorism in India and the impact this has on the security of the country and the region. This concern is being reflected in the statements issued by the official spokesmen of several foreign Governments and in the coverage by the international media.

(c) No, Sir.

(d)-(f) Does not arise.